



The OVR Review

"To assist Kentuckians with disabilities to achieve suitable employment and independence"

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Spring 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

Article submitted by Dave Matheis. Interview conducted by Nanci Shelden

Wade Bailey Retires after 36 Years of Service

Leaves Staff with Advice for the Future



On June 30, the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation said farewell to a living icon. Wade Bailey retired after 36 years with the agency.

Wade came to agency on July 1, 1971, after two years of military service during the Vietnam War and three years of teaching high school. Born in Paintsville, he was one of 23 graduates

of long-gone Flatgap High School in 1960 and the only one to later graduate from college. He graduated from

Morehead State (then) College with a double major in Speech/Drama and Political Science and holds two Masters, one from Eastern Kentucky University in Guidance and Counseling and one from Morehead in Adult Education with an emphasis on Vocational Rehabilitation.

Wade's tenure with the agency can be measured in a number of ways. He served under 11 agency heads, the administrations of nine different Kentucky governors, and he provided vocational rehabilitation services under two Rehab Acts and five Act amendments. While he was working, the University of Kentucky had six basketball coaches. And we think he had at least six jobs with the agency: counselor, industrial relation specialist, assistant director for field services (Western Kentucky), regional director (Central Kentucky), district manager (Richmond and Somerset offices, briefly) and assistant director (again).

Numerous changes can occur in 36 years. In the field of vocational rehabilitation, for Wade the biggest ones stem from the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 when applicants and clients received increased rights that gave them more control over their vocational rehabilitation programs. As Wade said recently, "the plan" went from one small paragraph to at least two pages. Another big change: Wade can still recall the days of large numbers of physical restoration cases.

One recent change that Wade finds detrimental is the reorganization of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). He feels abolishing the ten regional offices will be a great detriment to the program nationally. He also bemoans the fact that employer attitudes toward hiring individuals with disabilities have not changed more than they have over the last 36 years.

"There is a saying, 'find a job you like and you will never work another day in your life.' If you believe that, then I haven't worked a minute for 36 years."

Of all that he has done in his career, Wade is most proud of his role in creating what we now know as the community-based work transition program, which gained a national reputation. Beginning with a federal grant, it enabled the agency to expand services to students exiting schools who were not destined for post-secondary education. By partnering with local school districts, it also allowed the agency to increase its available state match. As he says now, "if we do our job, the consumer will not know the difference between the last day of school and the first day of work." Wade

also points to his work in the early eighties to expand services to individuals with the most significant disabilities, principally mental retardation, that was a precursor to supported employment services.

When Wade was asked to give some advice to the agency staff as he leaves, his response was: "Be fair. Counselors,

be fair to your consumers. Leadership, be fair to your staff. Agency, be fair to the employers. I have learned over the years that if you do that then you will get respect."

In retirement, Wade will continue to be available to deliver his infamous "Boomers, Xers, and Yers," something that has made him a minor star over the last few years. He also plans to spend a lot of time golfing, traveling, and pursuing two long-time interests, archeology and paleontology.

In closing, Wade states, "there is a saying, 'find a job you like and you will never work another day in your life.' If you believe that, then I haven't worked a minute for 36 years."

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Message from Executive Director, Ralph Clark

Welcomes You to 'The OVR Review'



I am very happy to present the first edition of the OVR newsletter, ***The OVR Review***. We would like this newsletter to become a valuable tool for communicating the activities and successes of vocational rehabilitation services to our staff, our consumers, and the general public. I consider communication to be of primary importance as we strive to fulfill our mission and this newsletter, coupled with our recent efforts to make our Internet website more informative and responsive to the needs of Kentuckians with disabilities, reflects that importance.

During the first half of 2007, the agency has been very busy, particularly in the area of training our staff. By the end of July, every vocational rehabilitation counselor in the agency will have received training on our new eligibility procedures, our revised policy on serving individuals with substance abuse, guidance and counseling techniques, and updates on Social Security Work Incentives. In addition, early this year, we completed the second week of our Academy of Leadership Exploration and Preparedness (ALEAP) for 20 individuals in the agency who hope to obtain management positions in the future. We are committed to such a heightened emphasis on training to insure that we have the most qualified staff possible to serve our consumers.

Recently, some important staff changes have taken place in the agency. Earlier this spring, we hired Charmaine Wright to lead the Bluegrass District upon the retirement of Bertie Hacker. The end of May saw the retirement of Patty Conway as manager of our Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Branch. Patty brought the branch to national prominence for its innovations in services to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing population during her tenure as manager and she will be missed, but she has been replaced by Janis Friend, who has similarly brought national attention to our deafblind services. We are also hiring a new manager for our Rehabilitation Technology Branch. An announcement on this position will be forthcoming. At the end of June, Wade Bailey, one of our two assistant directors in the Division of Program Services, retired after thirty six years of service (see page 1). During his tenure Wade has served as a counselor, District Manager, Regional Administrator, and Assistant Director. His knowledge of not only our program but the Workforce Investment Act is nearly irreplaceable. However, personnel change is a natural part of any organization and I am confident we have found a highly skilled replacement with Allison Jessee, previously a Program Administrator with VR.

It is my hope that this newsletter can at least partially convey the sheer amount of activity in the agency and provide some indication of the commitment, creativity, and determination of our staff and consumers. Finally, to the staff of Vocational Rehabilitation, THANK YOU for making the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation the best agency in the Commonwealth. The respect our program has across the state is directly related to you and your outstanding work.

We would like to hear your comments and suggestions. Please e-mail them to us at WFD.VOCREHAB@ky.gov or you can contact Nanci Shelden at 1-800-372-7272.

"It is my hope that this newsletter can at least partially convey the sheer amount of activity in the agency and provide some indication of the commitment, creativity, and determination of our staff and consumers".

Newsletter Distribution Dates

Coming to a City Near You

Each quarterly issue of the newsletter will be distributed via e-mail to all staff and it will also be posted on the OVR Intranet and the OVR Internet as well, thus being the OVR Online Newsletter. When the newsletter is distributed, please don't stop there! Send it to every so we can get the word out about VR! The issues will go out on...

Monday, October 1, 2007
Wednesday, January 2, 2008
Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Consumer Spotlight: When Opportunity Knocks, Grab It

Lincoln County Resident Makes Use of Project ASSET

In 2004, Mike Cox, a Lincoln County resident since 1987, went out to his mailbox just as he did every day. But on this particular day, instead of receiving the usual onslaught of bills and flyers, he found a Social Security Ticket to Work. Mike saw this as his big opportunity to realize his dreams. He immediately called the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Danville. As he now says, "If you don't grab it the first time right, you might not get a second chance." His dream had long been to own his own lawn care business, having been, as he puts it, "born with a green thumb." Patti Edwards, his OVR Counselor, told Mike about Project ASSET (Advancing Supported Self-Employment Techniques), a collaborative project of the Kentucky Developmental Disabilities Council and the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. With the support of a team that included Ms. Edwards, OVR Supported Employment Consultant Lori Norton, and individuals from various agencies, Mike began his journey.

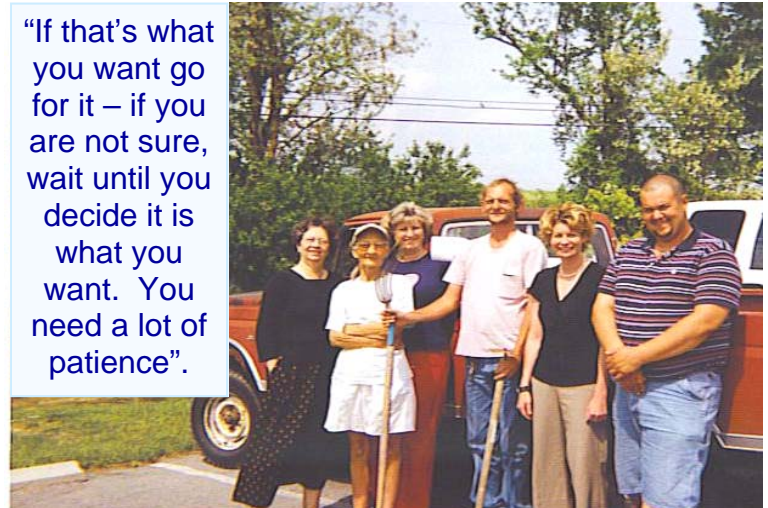
From the beginning, Mike was positive and motivated about establishing his business, "Land Art", which officially opened in August 2005. One of his greatest challenges has been to find reliable transportation. Mike has jobs that include upkeep of a local cemetery. He hopes to have 30 to 40 yards this summer and is doing some heavy marketing to ensure this occurs. He has promotional signs for his truck, yard signs, "door hangers" which he places on residential homes, flyers he puts on cars, and T-Shirts. He hands out his business cards whenever possible. Mike hopes, with increased revenue, he will be able to expand his business next season to landscaping and installing fish ponds.

Mike says that owning Land Art has increased his confidence. In the past, he had lost jobs for various reasons, but with having his own business, he is able to set his own pace, and his own hours, work independently and take a break at work whenever he needs it without the fear of being fired. His advice to others interested in self-employment is: "If that's what you want go for it – if you are not sure, wait until you decide it is what you want. You need a lot of patience".

According to Mike, 'the competition is rough this year,' but he has the drive and support to keep pushing forward. To contact Mike Cox at Land Art, please call **606-346-5124**. He works in Casey, Lincoln and Boyle counties.

Special Thanks to those individuals who have assisted Mike fulfill his lifelong dream: Patti Edwards,

"If that's what you want go for it – if you are not sure, wait until you decide it is what you want. You need a lot of patience".



Left to right: Nancy Chesser, Bettina Cox, Patti Edwards, Mike Cox, Lori Norton, and Trevor Gosser

Lori Norton, Lynda McKinley, Trevor Gosser, John Preston, Matt John, Nancy Chesser and Jim Huston.

After five years, Project ASSET is ending. Project ASSET (Advancing Supported Self-Employment Techniques) is Kentucky's pilot project on supported self-employment. Funded by the Kentucky Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council with matching dollars from OVR, the project has assisted 22 individuals who have significant developmental disabilities in the exploration, development and operation of their own businesses over a five-year period. DD Council funding for the project expires this summer.

The principles of supported employment, when applied to self-owned businesses, assure the person who will own the business has an interest in it, the capacity to participate in it, and the support needed to make the business successful. Each Business Development Team has spent endless hours making sure that the business is created "around" the person with their participation.

Project ASSET has begun to have replication impact through Project BEACON, (Business Enterprises Are Creating Opportunities Now) an OVR Supported Employment Branch pilot to serve individuals with mental illness in supported self-employment. OVR has also participated in the Brain Injury Association's Self-Employment Project in Louisville, demonstrating how people with acquired brain injuries can benefit from opportunities to explore self-owned businesses.

A complete report, with findings, recommendations, and business profiles will be available by December, 2007.

Employer Spotlight: Tompkinsville Police Department

Western Kentucky University Graduate and PACE Participant Hired as New Employee

The Glasgow Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is honored to recognize the Tompkinsville Police Department, the Tompkinsville City Commission and the Mayor of Tompkinsville for extending their partnership with OVR consumers and the agency. Through this collaboration, an OVR consumer was given the opportunity to participate in the PACE Program (Preparing Adults for Competitive Employment) which led to his employment with the City of Tompkinsville.

Shawn Carter, a May 2005 graduate of Western Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and minor in Criminology, is currently employed as a Data Entry Processor for the police department. Shawn's responsibilities include compiling and processing all arrests, burglaries, felonies, incident reports, and accident reports, into a central data base to the state of Kentucky once a month. With the assistance of OVR Rehabilitation Technology services, Shawn has a desk and computer that meet his needs and provide him with comfort and support to perform his daily job functions. Shawn uses Dragon Naturally Speaking®™ software to enter the necessary information into the system. The Chief of Police, Dale Ford believes that



Shawn Carter and Dale Ford, Chief of Police

Shawn's contribution to the department is vital. Mr. Ford states, "He has a very important job here in the department."

Shawn has been part-time with the police department since August 2006. He disclosed in a recent interview he "looks forward to going to work and being given money he has earned." Shawn's mother Connie, believes the experience has been very good for Shawn's overall health and allows him to meet new people. "He is much happier now and it's all because someone gave him a chance to prove he is worth hiring."

Shawn will oversee the "Buckle Up Kentucky" local campaign that started May 21, 2007. Shawn looks forward to having the opportunity to oversee such an important campaign for Kentucky's motorists.

"He is much happier now and it's all because someone gave him a chance to prove he is worth hiring."



Shawn Carter

Article submitted by Robin Ritter

Louisville Staff Receives Award *Honored for Partnership with Citi Group*

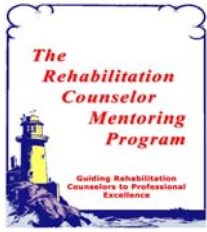
The Louisville Employment Team was recognized by Citi Group at a service award luncheon hosted by the company. The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation received the 2007 CITI OUTSTANDING SERVICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD for its efforts in referring qualified persons with disabilities for positions at Citi. The Louisville Employment Team consists of job placement staff from the Louisville and Middletown districts. Several community organizations from all of Kentuckiana were in attendance at the luncheon.

Tompkinsville Police Department

206 N Magnolia St
Tompkinsville, Kentucky 42167
(502) 487-6191



Rehabilitation Counselor Mentors *A Beacon of Light*



Was there ever a time in a new job you wished someone would coach, point or guide you in the right direction? Maybe there was an individual who took on that role for you and made a difference in acclimating you to the job. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has always had staff willing to step up and guide new employees, but in 2002 a concept became reality. A lighthouse became the symbol used to convey the strength and dedication of a formal Rehabilitation Counselor Mentoring Program. Five-years later the program is twenty-five mentors strong. Their dedication to the skill development of new counselors continues to grow and develop as they train and hone their own skills in this area.

There are now fourteen districts represented in the mentor program which has received national recognition. Many states have shown interest in the Kentucky Mentor Program and have emulated various aspects. The program has successfully moved from impacting the districts and state to setting a standard within the profession of rehabilitation counseling.

As a mentor, participation in an annual training is required to stay abreast of policy changes and preferred practices. The 2007 Annual Mentor Training included topics on Ethics, Conflict Resolution, Autonomy and Policy and Procedure Challenges. In addition, a celebration recognizing all mentors for their efforts and commitment provided an opportunity for appreciation

and praise. The Mentor Team members (Malinda Davis, Chair, Kellie Scott, Tom Combs, Jodi Harris, Jennifer Morse and Allison Jessee) were recognized for their continued efforts to enhance the training of new counselors and improve the mentor program.

As part of continually improving the program, mentors, managers and new counselors were surveyed in 2006. The overwhelming positive comments from all staff were evident through quotes such as: "It gives you a fresh perspective on VR", "Knowing my experience can benefit others is fulfilling" and "I'm getting a new outlook on my job". While the responsibility of being a mentor is challenging, this elite group of counselors is evidence of the leadership in OVR.

The Mentor Program is an extremely valuable resource to OVR! Mentors assist new counselors with the technical aspects of case management and quality casework. But of equal importance is the fact that mentors have a huge impact on the philosophical and attitudinal formation of new counselors. Sherri Greer, Director of Program Services, states, "to me, the following statement says it all and is the rationale for selecting the Mentor Program to represent the Division of Program Services in the first agency newsletter! Additional duties, training and time commitments without monetary reward for providing this service demonstrates each mentor chooses to accept responsibilities because they are dedicated to seeing others succeed and most of all because they are committed to impacting the success of individuals with disabilities beyond the scope of their own caseload. This is the essence of what we do! This speaks to the very mission of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation! This is the heart of the program! Mentors bring light, direction, and serve as a beacon for the future! Thank you, mentors!"



Mentors at the 2007 Annual Training: Pictured in the front row from left to right: Sherri Greer, Director of Program Services; Carol Leonhart; second row: Greg Willett, Assistant Director of Program Services; Vicki Lang; Gwen Babbage; Malinda Davis; Debby Smith; Pat Selch; third row: Leah Hart; Marty Sensing; Jane Smith; Sherry West; fourth row: Julie Beth Hayden; Heather Hudson; Patti Edwards; Michelle Dennison; Jennifer Morse; back row: Harold Brosnan; Jonathan White; Doug Steinhaus; Julie McConnell; Regina Bates; Kellie Scott; Alan Gullett; Brent Sturgill; not pictured: Tony DeName and Tressa Howard.

CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

TOP TEN

HIGHEST REFERRING COUNSELORS OF CONSUMERS TO THE CENTER!

Kelly Colvin
Alan Gullett
Sharon Lawson
Lisa Medley
Patrice Flynn
Regina Bates
Glenn Cranmer
Kevin Kloubec
Ashley Marcum
Vickie Lang

West Liberty District
West Liberty District
West Liberty District
Owensboro District
Middletown District
Middletown District
Elizabethtown District
Elizabethtown District
Florence District
Louisville District

Extra Efforts Make Job Placement Month a Success

Proclamation by Governor Ernie Fletcher is Made

Governor Ernie Fletcher proclaimed the month of May 2007 as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Job Placement Month.

Each district planned local activities to acknowledge and celebrate the agency's employer partnerships and placement activities. VR staff hosted events such as Job Fairs and Career Expositions that brought job seekers together with employers. Staff conducted mock interviews, wrote résumés and hosted discussions with employers and consumers. They also hosted events that

featured successful consumers who were impacted by VR services. Staff paid tribute to employers through special awards, toured businesses to learn about work environments and to promote VR services to employers.

These expanded networking efforts and the partnerships developed will serve VR consumers for years to come.



Ralph Clark, Executive Director



Proclamation from Governor Ernie Fletcher



Paul Jennings, Cheryl Kizer, and Jason Cole (Owensboro)



SCVR Council Member, Dana Haugsted & Husband, Lindy Haugsted (Central Office)



Jason Cole and Donna Brown (Owensboro)



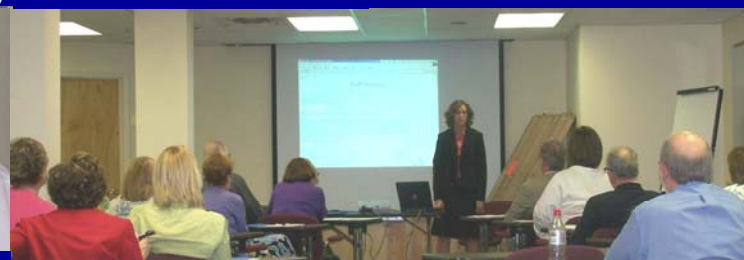
Michelle Cobb, Debbie Chandler, and Valerie Manley (Louisville)



Kim Schmitz (Lexington)



Taylor Carter and Sherry Washington (Lexington)



Nanci Shelden providing an Intranet demonstration for Central Office staff



Brent Sturgill (West Liberty)



Kim Schmitz, Robin Ritter, Wade Bailey, and Greg Willett (Lexington)



Cheryl Martinez and Pat Butcher (Florence)



Lois Carpenter (Lexington)

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center Shines Effortlessly

Innovative Ideas Include Esthetics Program and Research Opportunities



The Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center (CDPVTC) has been busy this past quarter. One major change that will be taking place is the CDPVTC will open a new training program in the area of esthetics. Esthetics refers to the entire field of the health and beauty of the skin. Research

indicates the skin care industry is predicted to experience faster than average growth in the near future. The Kentucky Office of Employment and Training estimates there will be a need for 12,000 estheticians throughout the Commonwealth. Students who train to become estheticians learn about beautifying the skin through a variety of means. Estheticians are also trained to recognize skin problems that require a dermatologist or a medical professional. Because some estheticians move into the medical field, this training course will include anatomy, physiology, chemistry and pathology of the skin. The program is scheduled to open in early Fall 2007. It will have an open enrollment policy and requires completion of 1,000 training hours. Staff at the Center are hopeful students will be interested in the program and use this as an opportunity to further expand their interests and job skills!

Staff recently attended transition fairs in Hopkinsville, Maysville, Bowling Green, Prestonsburg, Richmond and Somerset to name some of the cities.

The Center is revamping its website to replace the current website. The website address will soon be changed to <http://www.cdpvtc.gov>. Along with a new look, the website will provide up-to-date information on Center programs and services. The website is expected to be accessible on the Internet by early July, 2007.

The Center recently welcomed two new staff members. Kim Daniel, Licensed Practical Nurse, began employment on May 16, 2007. Kim will be working in the Center's Assisted Living Unit. Heather O'Hara is a Rehabilitation Care Aide and began employment on April 16, 2007. Heather is assigned to the Dorm/Security/PACE Unit. Welcome to both individuals!

Staff coordinated Skill Enhancement Training (SET) III in March, 2007 for thirty-nine (39) new agency employees. The participants spent two days at the CDPVTC learning about various aspects of program operations and how services provided can assist OVR consumers to achieve positive employment outcomes.

Most importantly, CDPVTC is very excited about the research, recent accomplishments and other scholarly

activity of our personnel. Along with the completion of a Doctorate, David Beach has recently had two articles accepted for publication. The first will appear in *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin* and the second in *Rehabilitation Professional*. In addition, the June edition of *Communicative Disorders Reviews* contains an article by Barbara Pugh and Gilson Capilouto of the University of Kentucky.

In an effort to spotlight the considerable knowledge and talent of our staff and to increase the Center's presence in the professional literature, CDPVTC has developed a Research Committee. The goal of this committee is to foster scientific study by Center staff, focusing on improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. The Committee is looking for ways to collaborate with individuals outside the facility who may be interested in conducting professional research. Individuals interested in working with CDPVTC staff or who may have an idea related to a possible research project, please contact Angie Caudill at Angie.Caudill@ky.gov.

Construction on a new roof began in September 2006. The project is scheduled for completion in June 2007.

To improve Center security, an electronic key system has been installed on seven of the Center's primary entrances. The new system is a "proximity card" system. All staff and consumers will be issued an I.D. badge containing a computer chip that activates the doors to open. The system will also be linked and correlated to our computer based security camera system. This system should provide an improved but reasonable level of security to the Center students, staff and visitors regarding entrance to the Center.

CDPVTC has historically used a private cafeteria contractor to the prepare meals required in a twenty-four hour operation. As of June 17, 2007 feeding CDPVTC students will become a responsibility of an in-house kitchen manager and on-staff cooks. Not only do we project a cost savings as a result of taking this step, but this action affords us the opportunity to better ensure the quality and nutritional value of the meal being served. As always food service training students are an integral part of the kitchen operation. Get your taste buds ready!

The Rehabilitation Services Administration has announced they will be issuing an RFP to secure the services of a consulting firm in 2007 to conduct an evaluation of all 8 comprehensive rehabilitation center's within the U.S. in 2008 to determine best practices that can be shared with others.

A-LEAP Toward Succession Planning Agency Works to Prepare Leaders for the Future

For many years the agency has envisioned the development and implementation of a leadership succession program. In October 2006 that became a reality due to the diligence of the Curriculum Design Team. The team worked for more than a year to develop the guidelines, topics, presenters and logistical necessities for what became the Academy of Leadership Exploration and Preparedness (ALEAP). ALEAP Phase I was a tremendous success and steps are underway for the implementation of ALEAP Phase II.

Malinda Davis, a counselor in our Owensboro District, conveys her experience with ALEAP as follows:

Participating in ALEAP was one of the most exciting and rewarding programs that I have experienced in my 18 years as a VR Counselor. All

of the individuals who participated in this training are dedicated professionals who are focused toward being a leader and an advocate for people who have severe disabilities. I was thrilled to see this dedication and

was obvious that we continued to think about the experience throughout our evenings. Having the opportunity to participate in ALEAP was very challenging and time consuming, but very rewarding.

Some of the members of the

ALEAP training have future goals of management within VR. Others wanted to learn skills to be better advocates and leaders in their community for individuals who have disabilities. Regardless of the audience goals, the team that developed this training did an exceptional job and should be highly regarded for their hard work.



Back Row: Brent Sturgill and Jeremy Lyons Middle Row: Doug Steinhaus, Vicky Reilly, Regina Bates, Donna Osburn, Jennifer Ellis, Michelle Dennison, Holly Hendricks, Teresa Barney, Jonathan White, Margaret Moreland, Leslie Burton and Karen Clark Front Row: Keith Brown, Lisa Allen, Malinda Davis, Carol Leonhart, Cassandra Knight and Jane Smith

determination by the class participants. Most of us were reluctant to leave the training sessions at the end of our busy days. The next morning, most members returned with anticipation for the next training experience. It

Participating in ALEAP was a great learning experience and it gave me an opportunity to meet and get to know my fellow professionals throughout the state. I highly recommend it for all VR professionals.

Articles submitted by Nanci Shelden

Clifton Rice Celebrates 50 Years



Clifton Rice recently celebrated 50 years with the agency! When Clifton started with the agency in 1957, Governor A.B. 'Happy' Chandler was governor, Dwight D. Eisenhower was president and Iron Liege won the Kentucky Derby by a nose. Currently, Clifton is the program administrator in Central Office responsible for working

with the Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) in the state.

Fleming Leaves UK

Dr. Barney Fleming left the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky at the end of June to move to Seattle. He will be missed by the agency. In addition to providing rehabilitation engineering consultations to consumers for many years, Barney has been influential in assisting with a number of collaborative and innovative projects with OVR.

Personnel Changes

New Employees

Heather O'Hara, Rehab Care Aide (CDPVTC)	April 16
Michael Daddone, Assistant (Lexington)	June 1
Kim Daniel, LPN (CDPVTC)	June 1
Cathy Lazarin, Assistant (Lexington)	June 16
Rhonda Tungate, Job Placement (Elizabethtown)	June 16

Retirements

Rick Collins (Richmond)	May 31
Patty Conway (Central Office)	May 31
Connie Dawson (CDPVTC)	May 31
Pat Woods (Central Office)	May 31
Anna Link (Shepherdsville)	May 31
Wade Bailey (Central Office)	June 30
Debbie Cochran (Morehead)	June 30
Tawana Owens (Elizabethtown)	June 30

Resignations

Emma Arnett (Lexington)	April 5
Ashley Marcum (Burlington)	May 23
Lori Norton (Danville)	May 31
Anthony Poston (Louisville)	June 30

Staff Changes

Janis Friend, promoted to DHHS Branch Manager
Allison Jessee, promoted to Assistant Director

Get to Know Your Council Members

Lee Gordon

Chairperson of SCVR



Lee Gordon is chairperson of the Council and has been a member since the spring of 2006. Lee is the Transition Administrator for the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs. He works with children, adolescents, families, support groups and service providers to help ensure that

Kentucky children with disabilities have appropriate primary medical care and are prepared to successfully transition from school to work, from home to independent living and from pediatric to adult health care. Lee has a bachelor's degree in Health Administration from the University of Kentucky and a master's in Public Administration from Eastern Kentucky University. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Accessible Living in Louisville. Prior to his current job, Lee was a nursing home administrator. Lee

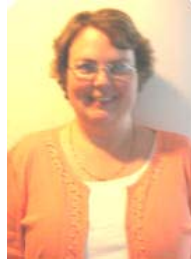
"I enjoy serving on the SCVR. I feel it gives me an opportunity to provide input toward improving services that can assist other individuals with disabilities."

has quadriplegia as a result of a car accident. He is married and the father of a four year old daughter. Lee

says, "As a former client of VR, I appreciate the services VR provided that allowed me to receive a college education, become employed and live independently. I enjoy serving on the SCVR. I feel it gives me an opportunity to provide input toward improving services that can assist other individuals with disabilities".

Nancy Hunter

Co-Chairperson of SCVR



Nancy Hunter is the co-chairperson of the Council and has been a member of the Council since the spring of 2006. Nancy has been a full-time faculty member at Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) for 24 years. Her teaching duties include developmental

reading classes and also Orientation to College courses. In addition to her teaching duties, she is the Disabilities Support Services Coordinator for the Maysville district. She has a Bachelor's degree in Christian Education from Asbury College, a Master's degree in Adult and Higher Education from Morehead State University and an Educational Specialist degree from the University of Kentucky. Her husband is a school music teacher and also serves as their church music director. Nancy has two children, ages 19 and 23. Nancy states, "The Council serves as a wonderful outlet for those of us in many related areas to network and become more aware of the opportunity that Vocational Rehabilitation affords to its constituents. SCVR has been of great value in helping me to better inform and work with students who would benefit from their services."

"The Council serves as a wonderful outlet for those of us in many related areas to network and become more aware of the opportunity that VR affords to its constituents."

Dana Haugsted Member at Large



Dana Haugsted is the current "Member at Large" of the Executive Committee and has been a member of the Council since the fall of 2006. She was born and raised in Ohio, is a graduate of Mansfield Business College, married and the mother of 2 sons, ages 36 and 45. After graduating from college, Dana worked as the "head of the

cage" for a stock brokerage firm in Ohio. She then moved to San Francisco and worked for a large retail firm in various capacities. Dana returned to Ohio to work for her family's acrylic manufacturing company. Several years later she had her own business in direct sales. She eventually quit work to take care of her mother who died of Alzheimer's disease and her father who died of leukemia. After moving to Lexington, Dana

was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and her husband, Lindy was diagnosed with cancer. Lindy could no longer work, so Dana became a client of OVR in order to transition back to the workforce. Dana states, "I credit OVR with practically saving my life by giving me their

"I credit OVR with practically saving my life by giving me their total support, confidence and the tools I needed to eventually become the Program Coordinator for the Training Division of the KY Department of Juvenile Justice".

total support, confidence and the tools I needed to eventually become the Program Coordinator for the Training Division of the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice". Dana is very excited to be a member of the Council and feels it is an opportunity to give a little back for all she received from OVR.

Council to Conduct Focus Groups

Forums to be Hosted at Independent Living Centers

As mandated by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Council performs an annual consumer satisfaction survey of individuals whose cases have been closed. The survey has been conducted via telephone by the University of Kentucky Survey Center for the past eleven years. The results have always been positive, but have changed very little over time. To augment the survey results this year, the Council will be sponsoring focus groups across the state. The focus groups will consist of individuals whose cases have been closed and include individuals who are deaf, hard-of-

hearing and of Hispanic origin. There will be six focus groups across the state with each of the state's independent living centers hosting one group. The independent living centers are located in Bowling Green, Covington, Harlan, Louisville, Lexington and Murray. The focus groups will be held in late summer and early fall and will be facilitated by staff from the Human Development Center at the University of Kentucky. The anecdotal information from these focus groups will help both the Council and agency in reviewing current services and help plan for the future.

Article submitted by Lee Gordon

Council Members and Staff attend CSAVR Conference

Topics Include: Providing VR Services to the Elderly Population and Disabled Veterans

The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) spring conference was held on April 22 – 25, 2007 in Bethesda, Maryland. Lee Gordon, current chair of the Council, Darrell Mattingly, past chair and Greg Willett, Assistant Director of Program Services attended the conference. Executive staff from VR agencies and Council chairs from across the nation attended the conference to discuss important issues regarding vocational rehabilitation services and the employment of individuals with disabilities. Some of the main topics emerging throughout the different sessions were: the number of injured soldiers coming

back from Iraq needing VR services, the increase in the elderly "baby boomer" population that will need assistance with employment because of the demand for them in the workplace, the increased focus on providing transition services for youth with disabilities transitioning into adulthood and the growing need for trained VR Counselors to work with all these groups. This was a well-attended conference. Several standing committees are working on different issues related to improving VR services and employment outcomes for individuals who have disabilities.

Save the Date

Upcoming Council and Committee Meetings

Interagency Coordinating Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

10:00-12:00

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

209 St. Clair Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

Training Room C, 1st Floor

Statewide Council for Voc. Rehab. (SCVR) Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2007

9:00-3:00

Hilton Suites at Lexington Green

245 Lexington Green Circle

Lexington, KY 40503

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE

**STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

Visit the website at www.ovr.ky.gov

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(Dave Matheis, editor, Nanci Shelden, co-editor)

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